

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 EB-07 ISO-00 NIC-01 /095 W

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R 171452Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5450

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LEININGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

/CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO,UR,US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON NUCLEAR WARHEADS

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSNAVEUR FOR PLAD

SHAPE FOR POLAD

1. POSSIBLY IN RESPONSE TO ARTICLES IN WESTERN PRESS ON
FBS/MBFR ISSUE, CENTRAL SOVIET PRESS (IZVESTIYA, PRAVDA,
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AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA) EVENING OF DECEMBER 16 AND MORNING

OF DECEMBER 17 PUBLISHED TWO SMALL TASS ITEMS ON U.S. NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

2. FIRST ITEM WAS A REPLAY OF A CALL BY GOVERNOR JIMMY CARTER, MADE ON NBC'S "MEET THE PRESS," FOR A "SHARP CUT" IN U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SECOND CONSISTED OF A SUMMARY OF AN ARTICLE IN THE JAPANESE NEWSPAPER YOMIURI QUOTING "AN ARMS EXPERT CLOSE TO CONGRESS" THAT U.S. HAS 3,500 TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND A FURTHER 800 ON WARSHIPS IN THE PACIFIC.

3. COMMENT. NEITHER ARTICLE IS BY NATURE UNPRECEDENTED IN SOVIET NEWSPAPERS, THOUGH THE FACT THAT BOTH APPEARED IN ALL OF THE CENTRAL PRESS SUGGESTS THAT THEY MAY BE PART OF A MINI-CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS. IT WOULD BE UNUSUAL FOR THE SOVIET PRESS TO REMAIN COMPLETELY SILENT ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE AT A TIME WHEN THE ISSUE IS RECEIVING HEAVY COVERAGE IN THE WESTERN PRESS. ARTICLES SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED ABOVE, I.E., POINTEDLY NOT REPEAT NOT DIRECTED AGAINST EUROPE BUT RATHER AGAINST SUCH WEAPONS HELD ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD ON U.S. BASES, COULD BE THE SOVIETS' AESOPIAN WAY OF COMMENTING ON AN ISSUE THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE BECOME THE SUBJECT OF SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR WARHEADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW18667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740367-0086
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741229/aaaaayrq.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS ON NUCLEAR WARHEADS CINCENR FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005